Subc1

1. (Amended) Implant material of claim 20, wherein the particles have intraparticulate pores, said pores having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

a1

2. (Amended) Implant material of claim 20 wherein said particles have a diameter of up to about 500 microns.

a2

9. (Amended) Implant material of claim 20 further comprising collagen.

a3

13. (Amended) Implant material of claim 20 wherein said particles have an inner core comprised of a first biologically-compatible polymeric material and an outer layer generally surrounding said inner core, said outer layer comprised of a second biologically-compatible polymeric material, said second polymeric material being hydrophilic and having a composition different from the composition of said first polymeric material.

a4

18. (Amended) Implant material of claim 20 further comprising at least one bioactive substance.

20. (Amended) Soft tissue implant material comprising

a5 biologically-compatible non-resorbable polymeric particles having a coating of calcium hydroxide thereon, wherein said particles have interstices therebetween having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

22. (Amended) Method of claim 37 wherein said implanting step includes

a6 the step of injecting said implant material.

28. (Amended) Method of claim 37 wherein said particles have a diameter

a7 of up to about 500 microns.

30. (Amended) Method of claim 37 wherein said particles have

a8 intraparticulate pores, said pores having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

36. (Amended) Method of claim 37 wherein said particles have an inner core

a9 comprised of a first biologically-compatible polymeric material and an outer layer generally surrounding said inner core, said outer layer comprised of a second biologically-compatible polymeric material, said second polymeric material being hydrophilic and having a composition different from the composition of said first polymeric material.

37. (Amended) A method of augmenting soft tissue comprising:

a. providing a biologically compatible implant material comprised of biologically compatible non-resorbable polymeric particles having a coating of calcium hydroxide thereon, wherein said particles have interstices therebetween with dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein; and

b. implanting said implant material within soft tissue.

a9

41. (Amended) Method of claim 40 wherein said polymeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate comprises a copolymer of monomeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate and a cross-linking agent.

a10

42. (Amended) Method of claim 37 wherein the step of providing a biologically compatible implant material further comprises combining said particles with a matrix material.

48. (Amended) Method of claim 37 wherein the step of providing a biologically compatible implant material further comprises the step of combining said particles with at least one bioactive substance.

a11

Please cancel claims 4, 21 and 35 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims 50-88:

50. (New) A particulate soft tissue implant comprising the material of claim 20.

51. (New) A particulate soft tissue implant comprising particles having an inner core comprised of polymethylmethacrylate and an outer layer generally surrounding said inner core comprised of polymeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate, said particles having interstices therebetween with dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

52. (New) The implant of claim 51, wherein said particles have intraparticulate pores with dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

53. (New) Implant material of claim 51 wherein said pores comprise between about zero and about 60 percent of said implant material.

54. (New) Implant material of claim 53 wherein said pores comprise between about 40 and about 60 percent of said implant material.

55. (New) Implant material of claim 51 wherein said pores have a size of less than about 100 microns.

56. (New) Implant material of claim 55 wherein said pores have a size of between about 50 and about 100 microns.

57. (New) Implant material of claim 51 wherein said particles have a diameter of up to about 500 microns.

a12

58. (New) Implant material of claim 57 wherein said particles have a diameter of about 50 to about 200 microns.

59. (New) Implant material of claim 51 further comprising collagen.

60. (New) Implant material of claim 59 wherein said collagen comprises between about 30% and about 65% of said implant material by volume.

61. (New) Implant material of claim 60 wherein said collagen comprises about 50% of said implant material by volume.

62. (New) Implant material of claim 59 wherein said collagen comprises injectable collagen.

63. (New) Implant material of claim 51 further comprising at least one bioactive substance.

64. (New) Implant material of claim 63 wherein said at least one bioactive substance is grafted to said biologically-compatible particles.

a12

65. (New) A particulate soft tissue implant comprising the material of claim 15.

66. (New) Method of claim 37, wherein said implanting step comprises implanting said implant material in particulate form.

67. (New) A method of augmenting soft tissue comprising:

a. providing a biologically compatible implant material comprising particles having an inner core comprised of polymethylmethacrylate and an outer layer generally surrounding said inner core comprised of polymeric hydroxyethylmethacrylate, said particles having interstices therebetween with dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein; and

b. implanting said implant material within soft tissue in particulate form.

68. (New) Method of claim 67 wherein said implanting step includes the step of injecting said implant material.

69. (New) Method of claim 68 wherein said injecting step includes injecting said implant material subcutaneously into an area having a soft tissue contour defect in an amount sufficient to at least partially remove said defect.

a12

70. (New) Method of claim 69 wherein said soft tissue contour defect comprises wrinkles.

71. (New) Method of claim 69 wherein said soft tissue contour defect includes gingival soft tissue defects in the mouth.

72. (New) Method of claim 68 wherein said injecting step includes injecting said material into the sphincter surrounding the urethra in an amount sufficient to at least partially constrict said urethra.

73. (New) Method of claim 72 wherein said injecting step includes injecting between about 2 cc and about 4 cc of said implant material.

74. (New) Method of claim 67 wherein said particles have a diameter of up to about 500 microns.

75. (New) Method of claim 74 wherein said particles have a diameter of about 50 to about 200 microns.

a12

76. (New) Method of claim 67 wherein said particles have intraparticulate pores, said pores having dimensions effective to permit soft tissue to grow therein.

77. (New) Method of claim 76 wherein said pores comprise between about zero and about 60 percent of said material.

78. (New) Method of claim 77 wherein said pores comprise between about 40 and about 60 percent of said material.

79. (New) Method of claim 76 wherein said pores have a size of less than about 100 microns.

80. (New) Method of claim 79 wherein said pores have a size of between about 50 and about 100 microns.

81. (New) Method of claim 67 wherein the step of providing a biologically compatible implant material further comprises combining said particles with a matrix material.

82. (New) Method of claim 81 wherein said matrix material comprises a volume of between about 30% and about 65% of the volume of said implant material.

a17 83. (New) Method of claim 82 wherein said matrix material comprises a volume of about 50% of the volume of said implant material.

84. (New) Method of claim 81 wherein said matrix material is selected from the group consisting of sterile water, saline solution, adipose tissue, blood, glucose, hyaluronic acid, and collagen.

85. (New) Method of claim 84 wherein said matrix material comprises collagen.

86. (New) Method of claim 85 wherein said collagen comprises injectable collagen.